

EPISODE 1: SECOND CHANCE

Characters:

Franca (Yankat)

Joanna

Mimi

Osato

Uncle Nate

Male Voice - Brando the Thug

Scene 1

Pam residence, Joanna's room, morning

1. **MUSIC:** **BRIDGE UP AND FADE UNDER...**
2. **SFX:** **INDOORS, DOMESTIC NOISES AND AUDIBLE SOBBING ON MIC**
3. **FRANCA:** (**SAD**) It's alright mum. Don't cry again, please. It's going to be okay; *we* are going to be okay.
4. **JOANNA:** (**SOBBING**) I just can't believe it, Franca! Everything is – is happening so fast, I don't even know how to deal with my emotions. These past two weeks – since *your father*, died. And now, the truth is out, just like that. My own husband lets me find out in his will! (**WAILING AFRESH**) Ah, Joanna... I have suffered...
5. **FRANCA:** Mummy, you don't need to dwell on that. Let's put it out of our minds so that we can grieve daddy properly...
6. **JOANNA:** (**ANGRILY**) Grieve? Grieve for who exactly? Ehn tell me – who am I grieving for? Solomon Pam – who is he even? Who is this man everybody has been talking about, eh? After 25 years of marriage you would think I should know my own husband! All that piety ... God this, God that! And all the time he was fooling around with a girl even younger than his own daughter! Is he this wicked man who, after all that, puts this mistress in his *will*? I mean... who does that? (**VOICE RISING**) Leaves her a flat – a flat! In the best part of town, no less? I don't even know who that is!
7. **FRANCA:** (**CONSOLING**) We're all in shock. Take heart mum.
8. **JOANNA:** (**QUIETER**) So now the whole extended family – the whole world has heard of the will – they all know now! They all know, and

they're now all looking at me like this fool. Ah! Solo, this is a slap to my face! You couldn't do it when you were alive so you do it to me after your death. Solo what did I ever do to deserve this?

- 9. FRANCA:** Take heart mummy. At least we still got the house, and the rest of his property including a sizable sum for our upkeep.
- 10. JOANNA:** (**ANGRILY**) Oh, so is that what you think? That because he left me some money and the house, everything would be fine? That I would just forgive him like that?
- 11. FRANCA:** No mum, that's not what I meant -
- 12. JOANNA:** I was the one that cared for him through out his sickness. Franca, you were there! You saw! For MONTHS I cared for him. I nursed him, kept him clean...carried him around to doctors. Meanwhile his little mistress was lounging in her fancy apartment, probably spending our money with her young boyfriends, and who knows, who else? He should have sent for her to come and take care of him!
- 13. FRANCA:** Mummy you need to calm down. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Don't let Rose's existence get to you.
- 14. JOANNA:** (**INCENSED**) Don't you EVER again mention that woman ... that HARLOT'S name in my presence, do you hear me?
- 15. FRANCA:** (**APOLOGETIC**) Yes ma, sorry ma. Don't be annoyed.
- 16. JOANNA:** Hmm ...
- 17. FRANCA:** In the meantime mum, don't forget that I'll have go back to school tomorrow...
- 18. JOANNA:** (**SURPRISED**) Tomorrow? Heeeeey! So soon? I am in trouble o. I don't know if I'm ready to deal with all the people who keep coming here talking about what a good man your father was. I'm afraid I'll say something I'll regret..
- 19. FRANCA:** You don't have to worry about all that for now, mummy. I've instructed Gabriel to help you to do all the things I was doing around the house. (**TRYING ON A LIGHTER MOOD**) Time for him to start acting like the man of the house now
- 20. JOANNA:** (**UNIMPRESSED, DISMISSIVE**) He's just a little boy.
(**WHINNY**) But they know at that your school, that you just lost your father now, don't they? I'm sure they will understand if you have to stay home for a little while longer. We all as a family need

to be together in a time like this.

- 21. FRANCA:** I agree mummy, but I've stayed away as long as I can. I can't afford to miss any more days of school – exams are less than a week away.
- 22. JOANNA:** Hmm. I suppose you are right
- 23. FRANCA:** I promise I will be back in the next few weeks, eh? Don't worry mummy. Everything will be fine, you'll see.
- 24. SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 2

Mimi and Osato's residence, interior, evening

- 25. SFX:** **TELEVISION PLAYING SOFTLY IN BACKGROUND**
- 26. MIMI:** (FONDLY) Osato, I know that look. You're thinking of something deep and profound again, abi? What is it? Clue me in.
- 27. OSATO:** (LAUGHING) You know me too well, Mimi. OK. I was thinking about us... how different our lives are now? Amazing.
- 28. MIMI:** I think about that sometimes too. But it's a good kind of different; I'm glad with the way our lives are now.
- 29. OSATO:** So you don't have any regrets?
- 30. MIMI:** Not many.
- 31. OSATO:** Do you regret postponing your studies at the Open University to focus on your hair and makeup distribution business?
- 32. MIMI:** (LAUGHING) Not at all. In fact, I should probably confess something to you ...
- 33. OSATO:** Oh? What is it?
- 34. MIMI:** When I was registering for my course they gave all of us the prerequisites to go and look over. And honestly, Osato, by the time I finished reading that paper I realized I wasn't yet ready academically!
- 35. OSATO:** (SURPRISED) So you didn't know anything there?
- 36. MIMI:** I had never even heard of up to half of it. But at least now I can prepare properly and start studying to catch up from now. When I eventually continue my studies I don't want to be the dunce in the class!

- 37. OSATO:** (PLAYFULLY) My own Mimidoo – be a dunce? Not possible, and if you want proof just look at your business now. It's only been a few months o, and see how successful it has become already.
- 38. MIMI:** Oh Osato! I won't quite call it a success just yet. But thanks all the same. Especially for the support you gave me in starting the business. With your help I've been able to cope with the business and looking after little Charlie – (TEASING) *and* you too!
- 39. OSATO:** And don't forget the role family planning has played in helping us to stay young and stress-free?
- 40. MIMI:** True. It's just great! Such a simple thing...
- 41. OSATO:** And it's also allowed us to be able to make savings and plan for the future. I mean, with you opening that shop of yours one day, and me returning to school to further my studies ...
- 42. MIMI:** Yes...And I really like this method I'm using – the implant.
- 43. OSATO:** Why is that?
- 44. MIMI:** It's not like I have to be remembering to take it out every evening, or go to the doctor's office every month. Sometimes I even forget it's there!
- 45. OSATO:** (LAUGHING) I'm glad it's so simple and you are comfortable with it. If you are happy, I'm happy. (SERIOUS) See us... We have come a long way.
- 46. MIMI:** Yes o. From those days of letting the likes of Adesuwa come between us. And look now; Charlie is already one year old! Before long now we will have to start looking for schools for him.
- 47. OSATO:** (PLAYFULLY) Heey darling, slow down... Won't you allow this boy to enjoy being a baby before you sending him to university?
- 48. MIMI:** (JOKING) Ah, no-o! The early bird gets the best worm, as they say, so no dulling for us-o. (BOTH LAUGHING) But seriously, Chizoba says if one doesn't start looking for good nursery schools in time they all get filled up, and we will have to wait for the next academic term, or settle for one that is less than good. And you know Chizoba has experience in these matters
- 49. OSATO:** (TEASING) Look at you taking such a huge interest in already planning our baby's education! Charlie has no choice now; he will end up being something like a lawyer or a doctor – or an engineer!
- 50. MIMI:** (PLAYFULLY RESENTFUL) Osato you're just using me to play

abi?

51. OSATO: Ahn Mimido; how can you say such a thing? Don't you know that the way you take care of little Charlie and me really makes my heart do *yor-yori*?

52. MIMI: (LAUGHS)

53. SFX: BRIDGE MUSIC

Scene 3

Pam residence, Joanna's room, afternoon

54. SFX: AUDIBLE SOBBING

55. NATE: Honestly Joanna, I don't even know what to say. I am as surprised as you.

56. JOANNA: (TEARFUL) Ha, Nate; so you can lie like this? I never knew, on top of deceiving innocent people, that lying was another one of your talents!

57. NATE: As God is my witness Joanna, I'm telling you the truth! You know me; you know I don't lie.

58. JOANNA: So you expect me to believe, as Solo's oldest friend, as his *best* friend! You expect me to believe that you had absolutely no idea of his secret relationship with that woman? You had no idea that he betrayed me?

59. NATE: No; I HAD no idea!

60. JOANNA: Ah! There you go again, Nate! I don't know how you can even come to this house to visit me after what you and your friend have done to me!

61. NATE: (ADAMANT) Joanna my dear, we've known each other for so long that it hurts me that you think I'll be a party to what Solo has done. I was not just a friend to your husband, I feel like a member of this family. And if I had known that something like that was going on, there is no way in this life that I wouldn't have tried to put a stop to it...you know me.

62. JOANNA: (SORROWFUL SIGH) Hmm. So you mean ... he kept this a secret from *everybody*? He didn't even tell you his best friend?

63. NATE: Yes, I swear it. He successfully deceived all of us.

64. JOANNA: It's like I'm beginning to think I knew this man even less and less. I

can't believe that he lived a lie.

- 65. NATE:** I was as shocked as you when I found out, my dear. **(GRAVELY)** How are the children coping with all this.
- 66. JOANNA:** The children? How do you think they are coping? Is it easy for any child to learn your father can act so foolishly and disgracefully? I don't know how we are all going to survive this shame. **(PITIFULLY)** I only wish that Franca had been able to delay going back to school. She was the one looking after everyone after everything, and with her gone now -
- 67. NATE:** **(CUTTING IN)** No Joanna; you shouldn't let her carry a burden like that – she's only a child herself! As the mother here, you should be strong for all your children.
- 68. JOANNA:** **(ANGRILY)** How can you say that, Nate? Be strong? You've seen what your best friend did to me, how he has publicly humiliated me! How can I be strong when Solo has used his mistress to publicly *woze* my face?
- 69. NATE:** Speaking of the mistress – did you hear the news? Apparently the girl has just fallen down and died.
- 70. JOANNA:** **(EXCLAIMS)** *Hei! She's dead?*
- 71. NATE:** Yes o! People are saying it must be juju, because she was healthy one day and then the next day she started complaining of headache and just suddenly dropped dead. Though the doctors are saying it was just a brain aneurysm.
- 72. JOANNA:** What's my own? I don't even know why you're telling me this ...
- 73. NATE:** I don't know, I thought it could maybe give you some closure.
- 74. JOANNA:** Well, I suppose. Not that I wished for her death, mind you. But now I can't help feeling like at least there's still some justice in this cruel world.
- 75. SFX:** **BRIDGE MUSIC**

Scene 4

Pam residence, interior, nighttime

- 76. SFX:** **LOUD INAUDIBLE SHOUTS AND BANGING OFF MIC**
- 77. SFX:** **DOOR OPENING**
- 78. JOANNA:** **(FRIGHTENED, WITH URGENCY)** Gabriel! Martin, Martina;

wake up! Wake up quickly!

79. SFX: **LOUD BANGING AGAIN OFF MIC, GETTING LOUDER**
80. JOANNA: Quickly, get up get up! Come to my room; come and hide in my room. Oya!
81. SFX: **RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**
82. SFX: **DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**
83. JOANNA: (WHISPERING) Shh. Don't be afraid eh? Just be quiet, just be very quiet. Everything is fine.
84. SFX: **LOUD BANGING ON MIC**
85. BRANDO: (SHOUTING) Oya respect yourself and open this door o! Don't let me break it down, if you like yourself!
86. JOANNA: (FEARFUL) Shh; it's okay, it's alright. Quickly everybody; hide! hide, and *don't come out!* No matter what you hear, stay hidden! Oya Gabriel, you enter the toilet. Martin, go under the bed – Martina you come to the wardrobe, quick! Don't make a noise, and don't come out!
87. SFX: **MUFFLED FOOTSTEPS AS CHILDREN HIDE**
88. SFX: **BANGING ON MIC GETTING LOUDER**
89. VOICE: (CALLS OUT) Brando, I think they are here...
90. SFX: **WOOD BREAKING**
91. BRANDO: (TALKING TO OTHER THUGS) You, drag that one out from under the bed! You, you, take the toilet and the wardrobe – there are some there too.
92. SFX: **WHIMPERING, SCREAMS, WAILS, PROTESTS
INERSPERSED WITH GRUFF ORDERS AND REBUKES
ALL HAPPENING AS SOUND BED TO THE NEXT LINES.**
93. JOANNA: (WAILING) Please! You don't have to hurt my children! Whatever you want I will give it to you – is it money? Are you looking for jewelry? Anything, *anything!* Please, just leave them alone!
94. BRANDO: See eh; all this one way you dey do na just noisemaking. They don already sign your death warrant aunty, so no fear!
95. JOANNA: Ah!
96. BRANDO: Wait; make I finish now ah ah! Na four children wey suppose dey this house; na only three I dey see so. I've been told there's another

girl here. **(BARKS)** Where is she hiding?

- 97. JOANNA:** **(FRANTIC)** Please; I don't know where she is, honestly! Please!
- 98. BRANDO:** Okay, I see; you don't want to cooperate abi? We were supposed to let you live. But you want die with your children together, abi? I say, where is she? Yeah! Oya, boys!
- 99. JOANNA:** Wait, wait, wait, please! Honestly sir, I'm telling you the truth. I don't know where she has gone. She is grown up, and comes and goes as she wants, honestly!
- 100. BRANDO:** I know you're lying. Anyway that doesn't even matter – we can always find her when we're done here. Mama Rose wants all your children wiped out.
- 101. JOANNA:** Hey! Mama Rose! Why? What have we done to her?
- 102. BRANDO:** You think you can just kill someone and nothing will happen? Are you not the ones that killed Rose?
- 103. JOANNA:** **(EXCLAIMS)** Me? Kill her, how? Hmn. My God! This is not happening to me! Look Mr. Man. I don't – I can't – I have nothing to do with her! Dead or alive. I don't even know her. See me, see trouble o. By the way, didn't they say that it was a blood clot even. Honestly I never -
- 104. BRANDO:** Hey, no too make noise abeg! The place where you come mess up I never even tell you. You be mama, not so? And you think you will kill person's only pickin and then keep your own? You self will feel pain of losing your pickins.
- 105. SFX:** **GUN BEING COCKED**
- 106. JOANNA:** **(WAILING)** Nooo! Not my children. They are innocent...we're all innocent.
- 107. BRANDO:** **(INTERRUPTS)** Shut up! Out of the way otherwise I'll delete all of una!
- 108. JOANNA:** Oga you are making a huge mistake...Please. Think of the innocent blood
- 109. VOICE:** **(COMING ON MIC)** Which one be innocent blood? Brando! Ahn-ahn, wetin dey cause delay now. You siddon dey do magistrate? Do quick abeg, make we go!
- 110. JOANNA:** Ah! Please, how much did they pay you? I will double it for you. I have money...please leave my children out of it! Please; they're

only children. They don't have anything to do with it, please!

- 111. VOICE:** (IMPATIENT) Brando? Wetin be the order?
- 112. JOANNA:** No. No. Ok kill me instead
- 113. BRANDO:** (LAUGHING) Oya boys, arrange! One bullet per.
- 114. JOANNA:** (WAILS) Solo! Solo my husband; see now! See what you've caused!!
- 115. SFX:** SOUND OF FOUR GUNSHOTS
- 116. MUSIC:** BRIDGE UP AND FADE